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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Olivier BUFFARD, et al.

SERIAL NO.: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION

FILED: HEREWITH

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/EP04/53540

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: December 16, 2004

FOR: DEVICE FOR ASSEMBLING A SHIELD ONTO A TANK, SHIELD, ASSEMBLY METHOD AND TANK

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

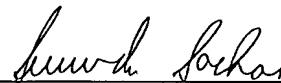
Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that the applicant claims as priority:

| <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>APPLICATION NO</u> | <u>DAY/MONTH/YEAR</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| France | 03 14797 | 17 December 2003 |
| France | 04 07843 | 15 July 2004 |

Certified copies of the corresponding Convention application(s) were submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/EP04/53540. Receipt of the certified copy(s) by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the attached PCT/IB/304.

Respectfully submitted,
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